

# Salisbury University Policy on Video Surveillance in Instructional Spaces

This policy establishes the guidelines for the installation and use of video surveillance within university classrooms, laboratories, and any other space in which students receive instruction and testing. The goal is to balance the safety and security of the campus community and our commitment to academic integrity with the essential right to academic freedom and privacy.

## 1. Purpose and Scope

The primary purpose of video surveillance in classrooms is to deter criminal activity and academic misconduct, protect university property, and enhance the physical safety of students, faculty, and staff.

This policy applies to:

- All permanent and temporary video recording devices installed in instructional spaces.
- All members of the university community (students, faculty, staff, and visitors).

## 2. Guiding Principles

- The university recognizes that classrooms are places of open intellectual exchange. Surveillance will not be used to monitor individual teaching styles or student participation.
- The university will provide clear notification where surveillance is in effect.
- Recorded footage will be stored securely and accessed only under strictly defined circumstances.

## 3. Operational Guidelines

- Clearly visible signs must be posted at the entrance of any classroom equipped with video surveillance.
- To protect academic discourse and comply with wiretapping laws, audio recording by university surveillance systems is strictly prohibited.
- Surveillance is generally "passive" (recorded for later review) rather than "active" (live-monitored), unless a specific emergency is reported.
- Footage will be retained for a maximum of 30 days, after which it is automatically overwritten, unless flagged for an ongoing investigation.

## 4. Access to Recorded Data

Access to recorded footage is restricted to the Salisbury University Police Department and

authorized legal counsel. Requests for footage review will only be granted in the following scenarios:

- Criminal investigations such as evidence of theft, assault, or vandalism.
- Safety emergencies such as locating a missing person or responding to an active threat.
- Formal inquiry of academic integrity violations. A faculty member who suspects a student of an academic integrity violation will seek permission from their department chair and academic dean to evaluate the video recording during the time frame when the potential violation occurred.

Note: Faculty members and students do not have direct access to classroom surveillance footage for personal or pedagogical review under this policy.

## **5. Prohibited Use**

The university strictly prohibits the use of classroom surveillance for:

- Evaluating faculty performance or "policing" curriculum content.
- Monitoring student attendance.
- Discriminating against any individual or group based on protected characteristics.